

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for securing a token from unauthorized use is disclosed. The method comprises the steps of receiving a first message transmitted  
5 from a host processing device and addressed to a PIN entry device according to a universal serial bus (USB) protocol; accepting a PIN entered into the PIN entry device; and transmitting a second message comprising at least a portion of the first message and the PIN from the PIN entry device to the token along a secure communication path. In another embodiment, the present invention describes an  
10 apparatus for securing a token from unauthorized use, comprising a PIN entry device, communicably coupleable to a host processing device transmitting a first message addressed to the PIN entry device, and communicatively coupleable to the token according to a universal serial bus USB protocol, the PIN entry device comprising a user input device, for accepting a user-input PIN; and a processor, communicatively  
15 coupled to the user input device, the processor for receiving the first message and combining the first message with the user-input PIN, and for producing a second message having at least a portion of the first message and the user-input PIN.

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